INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

in - nal Application No
PUI/IT 03/00708

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B22D11/06 B22D B22D11/118 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 **B22D** Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° 1 PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN Α vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 (2003-12-05) & JP 2003 266154 A (NIPPON STEEL CORP), 24 September 2003 (2003-09-24) abstract PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1,14 Α vol. 2003, no. 06, 3 June 2003 (2003-06-03) & JP 2003 039139 A (NIPPON STEEL CORP), 12 February 2003 (2003-02-12) abstract Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Aº document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 20/07/2004 8 July 2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA **Authorized officer** European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Mailliard, A

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